

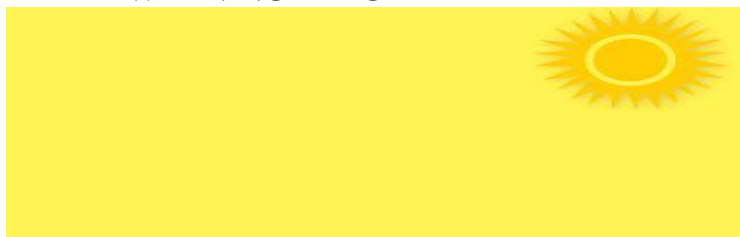


National Drought Management Authority KWALE COUNTY

a3ws

MARCH 2015 EW PHASE

EARLY WARNING FLAG



Early Warning Phase Classification

LIVELIHOOD ZONE	EW PHASE	TRENDS
Livestock farming	Alert	Deteriorating
Mixed farming	Alert	Stable
County	Alert	Stable

Biophysical Indicators	Value	Normal ranges
VCI-3month	29.06	40-50
State of Water Sources	4	5
SPI	-	-

Production indicators	Value	Normal ranges
Livestock Migration Pattern	-	Normal
Livestock Body Conditions	5	4-5
Milk Production	132	80-85
Livestock deaths (for drought)	No death	No death
Crops area planted (%)	-	% of LTA

Access Indicators	Value	Normal ranges
Terms of Trade (ToT)	-	-
Milk Consumption	60	40
Water for Households	4	5

Utilization indicators	Value	Normal ranges
MUAC	5.2	5.8
Coping Strategy Index (CSI)	1.85	-

Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

- Most bio-physical showed some fluctuations outside expected seasonal norms.
- The vegetation condition index VCI-3month was 29.06 compared to the normal of 40-50.
- The state of water sources was below normal at 4 compared to 5 normally.

Production indicators

- The milk production levels were above-average at 132 750-ml bottles compared to a long-term average of 80-85.

Socio-Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)

- There were no unusual migrations in search of pasture and water.
- The livestock body condition is rated at 5 compared to 4-5 normally.

Access indicators

- The milk consumption was above-average since it was recorded at 60.5 750-ml bottles compared to a normal of 40 bottles.

Utilization indicators

- The percentage of children at risk of malnutrition based on the mid-upper arm circumference was recorded at 5.2% which was below the normal of 5.8%.

Drought risks are medium as most indicators show some fluctuations outside the normal ranges. This is particularly evident in the livestock farming livelihood zone which has continued to post a deteriorating trend. The county is therefore placed in the first stages of early alert although with a stable trend since the season has begun that is likely to reverse the negative trends evident in most bio-physical indicators.

Current Drought Risk	Low	Medium	High
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1. MEASURING THE DROUGHT HAZARD

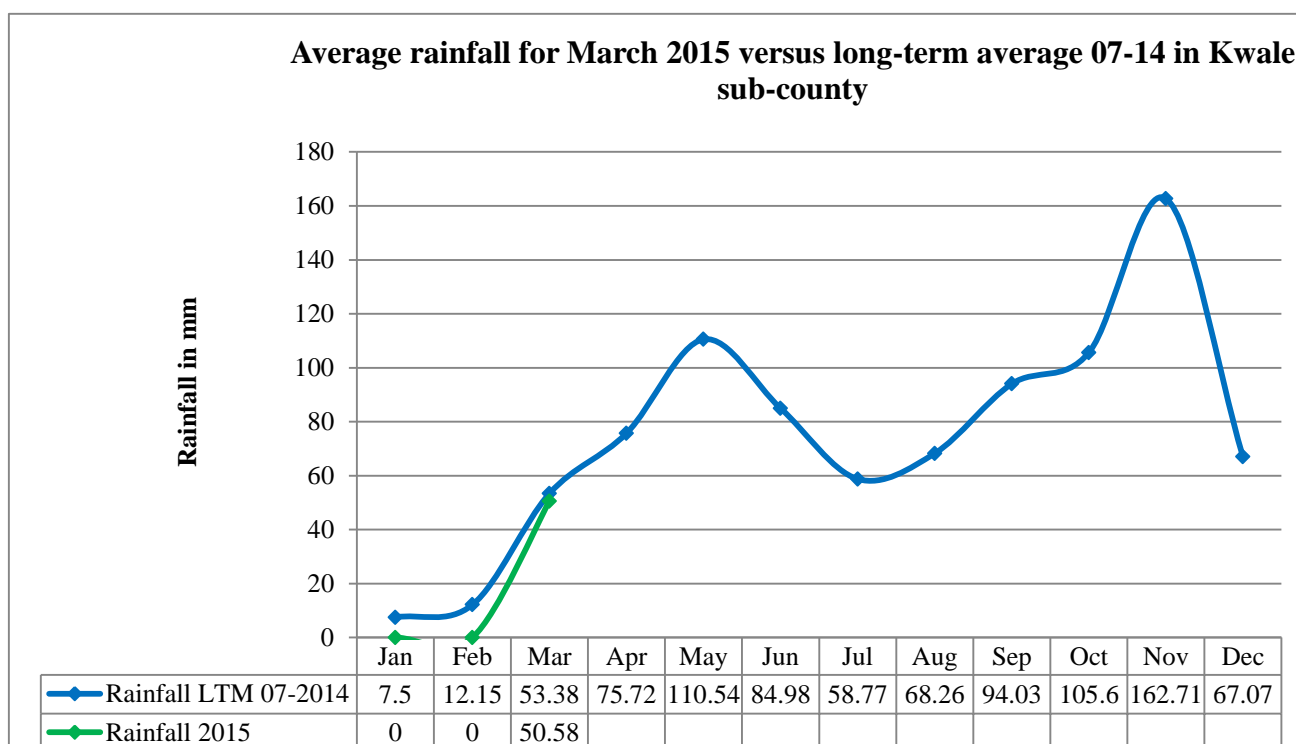
1.1 METEOROLOGICAL DROUGHT

1.1.1 Actual rainfall

- The onset of the long rain season was on 23rd of March 2015 in the third week (3rd dekad) of the month.
- The livestock farming livelihood zone recorded 338.2 mm for 21 rainy days while the mixed farming livelihood zone posted 260.8mm for 22 rainy days.

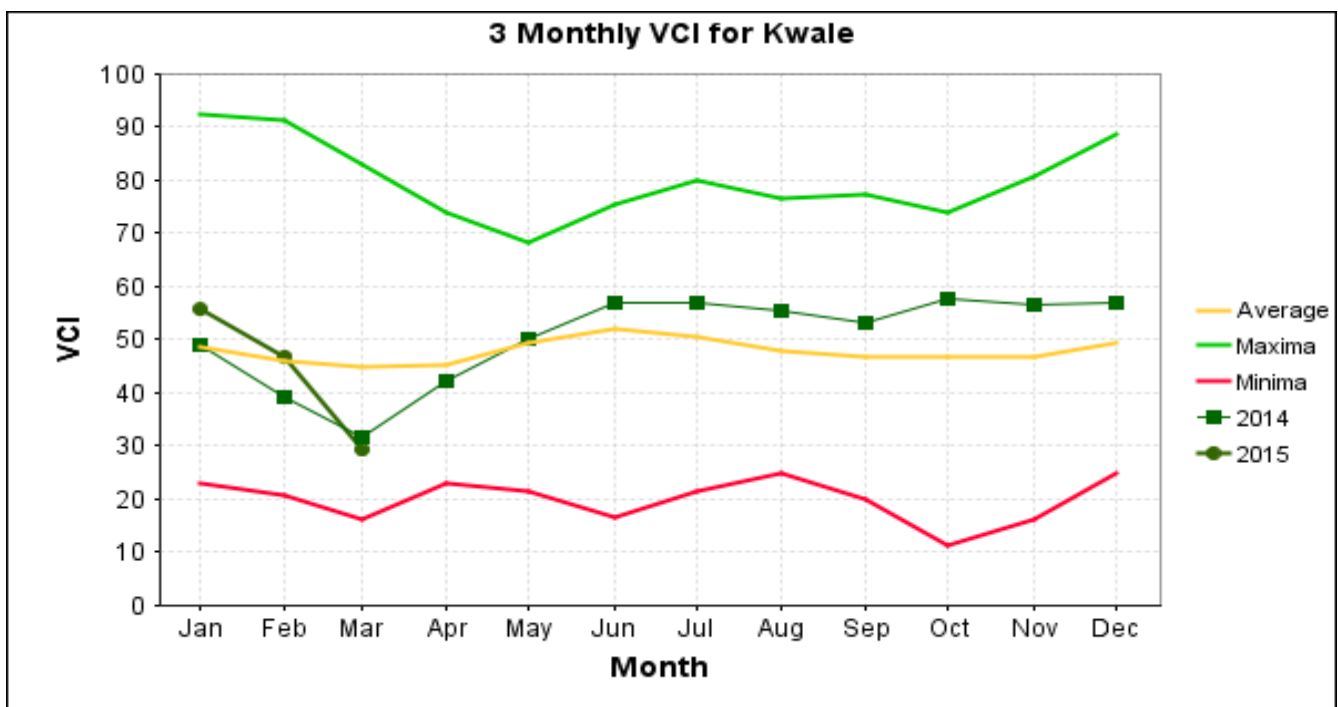
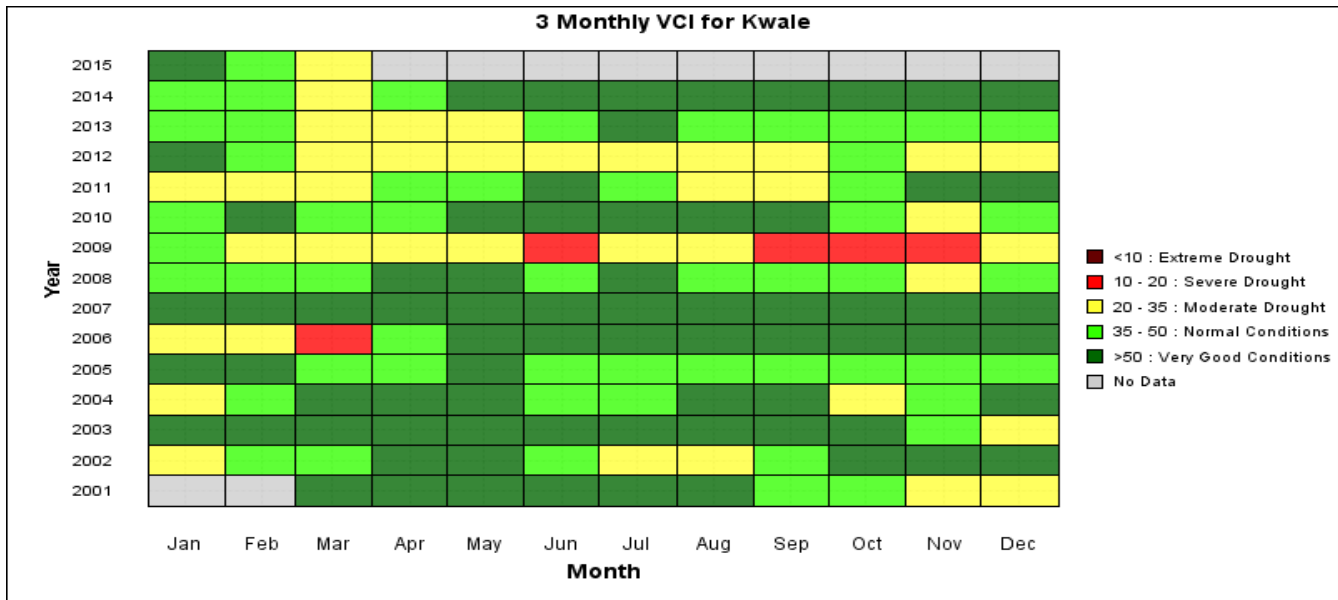
1.1.2 Rainfall station data

- 50.58 mm of rainfall was recorded in Matuga sub-county which was almost equal to that expected at this time of the year as illustrated below.



1.1 AGRICULTURAL DROUGHT

1.2.1 VEGETATION CONDITION INDEX (VCI)



- The VCI 3-month value for the county is 29.06 classifying it at the moderate drought category. The value is lower than the normal of 40-50. The drought situation is worsening significantly as Lunga Lunga sub-county is classified at the severe drought category, Kinango sub-county is classified at the moderate drought category while Matuga and Msambweni sub-counties are at the no drought category.

1.2.2 Field Observations (Pasture and browse conditions)
Pasture

- The condition of pasture in the county is generally fair in the county which is normal for this time of the year. It has deteriorated from February due to a dry spell that had been experienced earlier in the month. The current pastures are likely to last for less than one month but for a shorter time frame in the livestock farming livelihood zone.

Browse

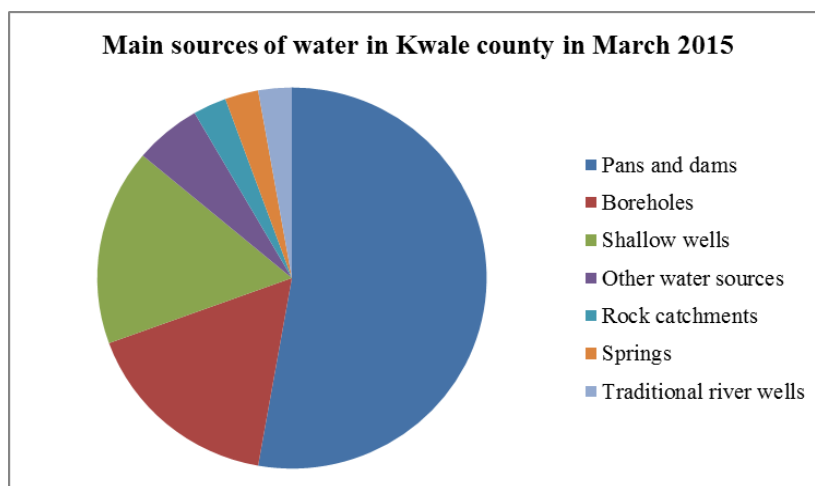
- The browse condition in the county is good which is normal for this time of the year although the situation has deteriorated compared to last month owing to the dry spell especially in the livestock farming livelihood zone.

1.3 HYDROLOGICAL DROUGHT

1.3.1 Water resources

State of water resources

- The main water sources currently in use by both livestock and humans in the county include pans and dams, boreholes, shallow wells, springs and traditional river wells.



- These are the normal sources for this time of the year. The water situation has deteriorated compared to last month. The deterioration in quality has been attributed to contamination of water sources due to sharing between livestock and humans. The quantity has also reduced due to the lower availability of water owing to the dry spell. The state of water sources is therefore declining as water sources are below normal for the period with an EW classification of 4.

B. MEASURING DROUGHT IMPACT ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS

2.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

2.1 Livestock Production

2.1.1 Livestock Ownership

- The main livestock species owned by most households in the county include cattle, goats, sheep and chicken. The highest proportion of livestock owned was chicken with over 50%, followed by goats at 27.9%, cattle at 16.5% and lastly sheep at 4.5%.

2.1.2 Livestock Migration Patterns

- There are currently no migrations noted in the county.

2.1.3 Livestock Body Condition

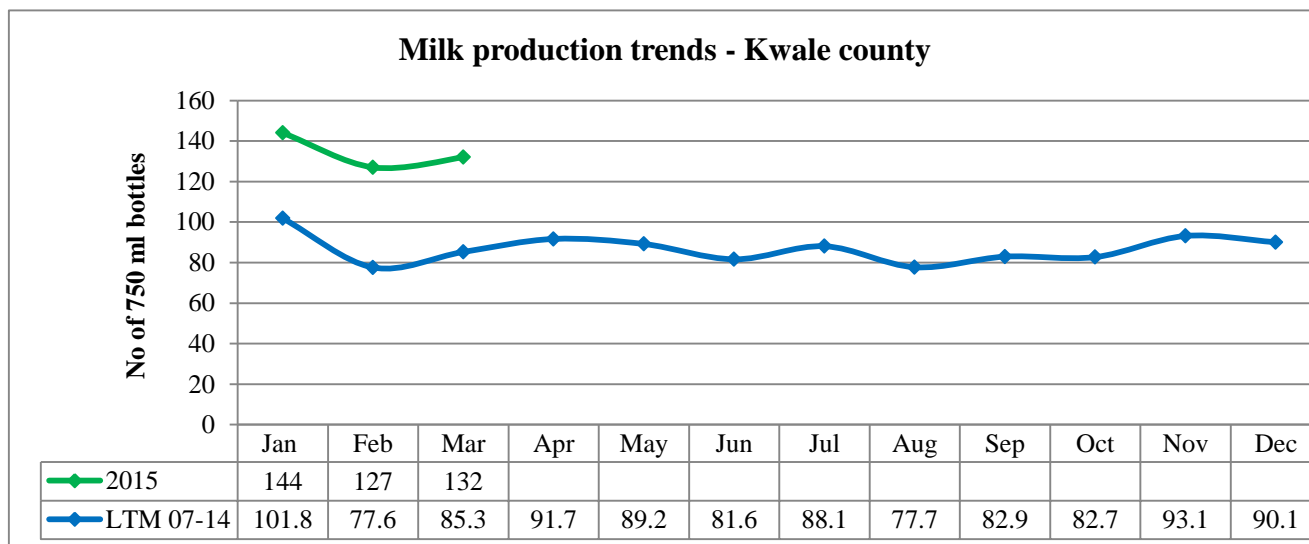
- The livestock body condition was generally fair across the county which is normal for this time of the year. The condition has deteriorated slightly compared to last month especially for cattle in the livestock farming zone due to decreased availability of pasture. However, the condition of goats has remained good across both the livestock and mixed farming livelihood zones. Generally, livestock body condition is classified as moderate: neither thin nor fat at the early warning phase classification of 5.

2.1.4 Livestock Diseases

- New Castle Disease was confirmed in Samburu ward although the level of disease incidence was within the seasonal norms. There were suspected cases of Foot and Mouth, CBPP and CCPP in Kinango sub-county.

2.1.5 Milk Production

- The average milk production per household was 144 750-bottles with cattle being the main livestock species source of milk as shown in the graph below.



- Milk production has increased slightly by 3.9% from 127 bottles to 132 bottles this month and as maintained a higher-than-normal trend.

2.1.6 Livestock deaths

- The mortality rates for cattle, sheep, goats and poultry were 0.86, 0.32, 1.37 and 12.67 respectively. However, most deaths were within seasonal norms and associated with diseases and not drought.

2.2 Rain fed Crop Production

2.2.1 Date of Planting and Area planted

- Planting is yet to start as the rains begun in the third dekad of the month. However, land preparation such as ploughing in readiness for the season has begun and planting should begin early next month.

2.2.2 Stage and Condition of food Crops

- The three main food crops include maize, green grams and cassava. Currently, maize and green grams are not on the farm but cassava is doing well and is currently being harvested which is normal for this time of the year. No major pests and diseases have been reported.

2.2.3 Harvest

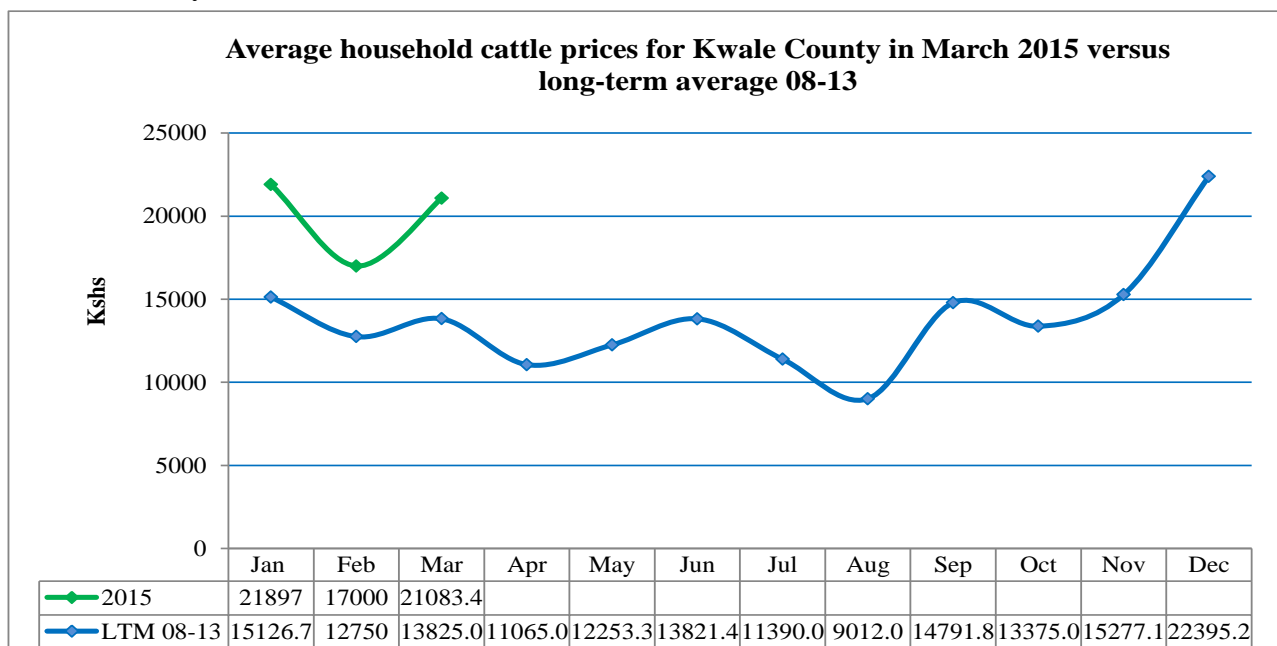
- Oranges, cassava, coconuts and local vegetables were the main crops harvested during the month.

C ACCESS INDICATORS

3.1 Livestock Prices

3.1.1 Cattle Prices

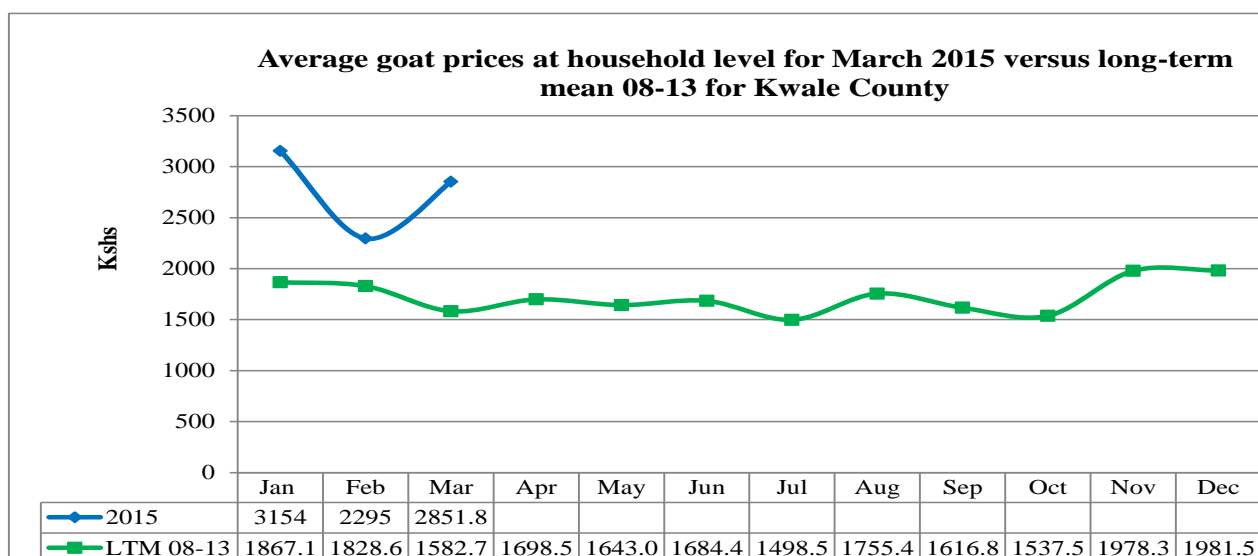
- The average price of 3-year old medium size bull during the month was Ksh 21,083 having increased by 24% from Kshs 17,000 last month.



- The mixed farming livelihood zone recorded the highest price at Kshs 23,000 while the livestock farming one posted Ksh 19,167. The inter-livelihood difference was owed to the higher availability of pasture in the mixed farming zone compared to the livestock farming one. The current cattle prices were 52.5% higher than the long-term mean for this time of the year.

3.1.3 Goat Prices

- The average price of an average size three-year old goat is Kshs 2,851.8 this month indicative of a 35.2% increase compared to Ksh 2,295 recorded last month.

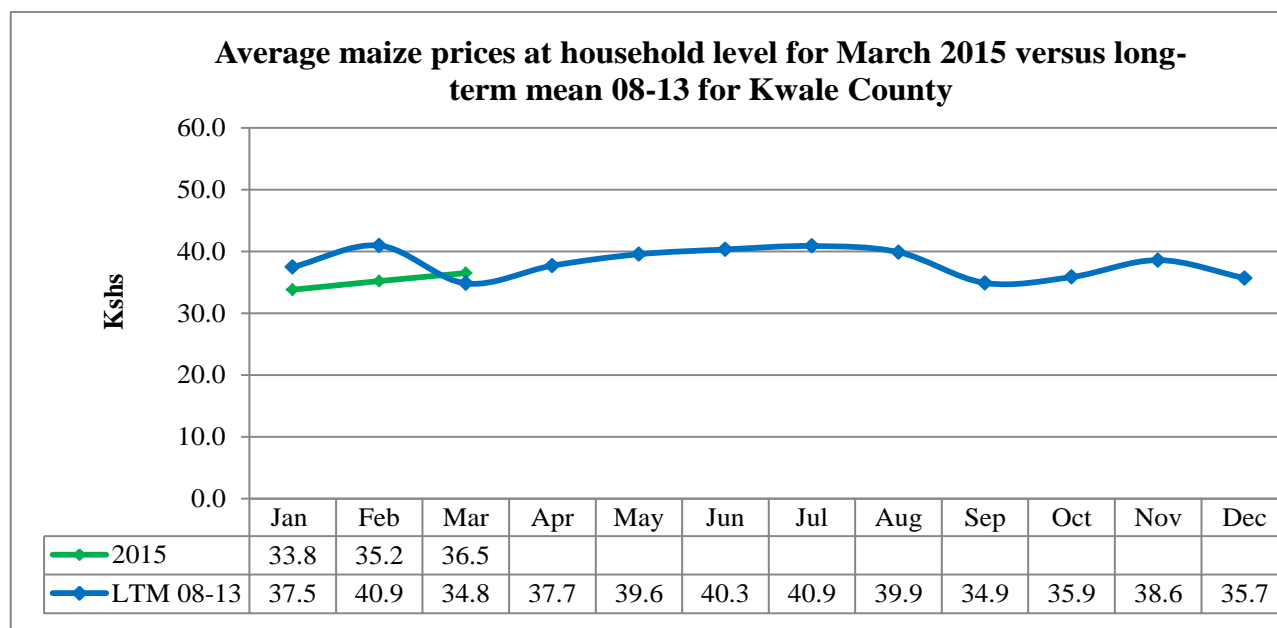


- The livestock farming livelihood zone posted the lowest goat prices at an average price of Ksh 2,278.6 while the mixed farming livelihood zone posted the highest at an average of Ksh 3,425. The quantity and quality of browse in the latter livelihood zone was better than in the former hence the difference in price.
- Goat prices are higher than the long-term mean and have almost doubled the seasonal prices.

3.2 Price of cereals and other food products

3.2.1 Maize

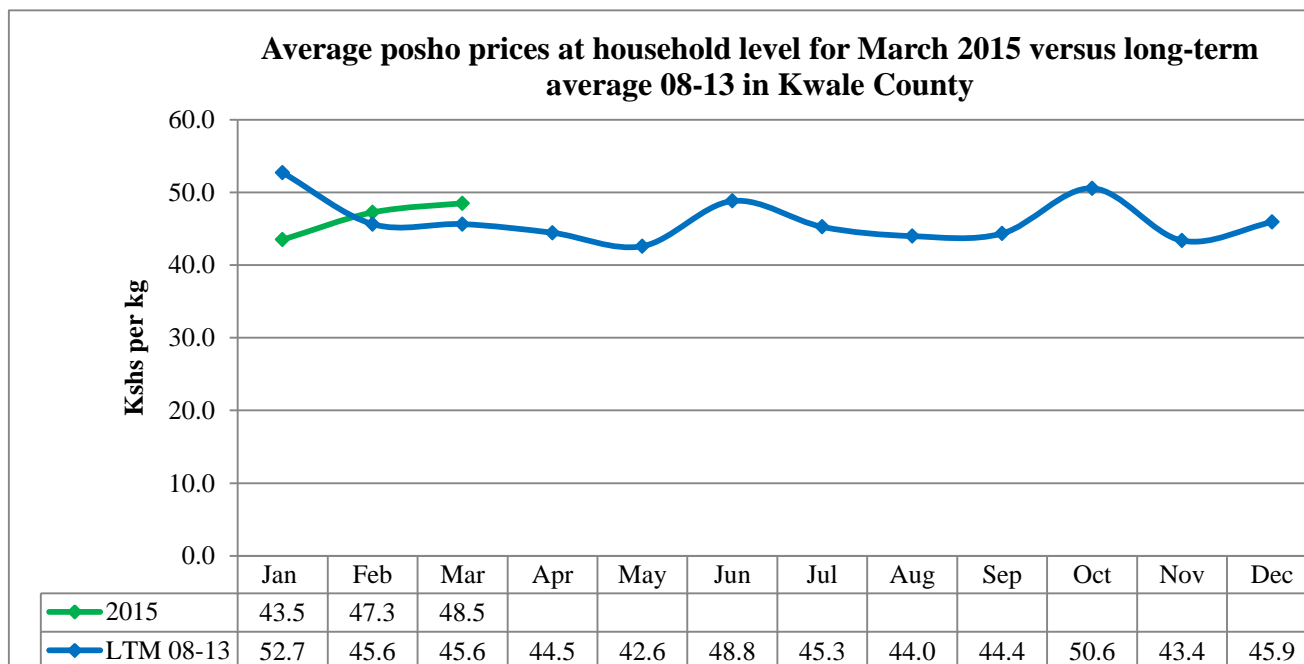
- The average maize price for the month is Ksh 36.5 which was quite comparable to Ksh 35.2 which recorded last month.



- There were minimal disparities in price between the mixed farming and the livestock farming livelihood zone as the former recorded Ksh 37.1 while the latter recorded Ksh 35.9. The current price for maize was 5% higher than the long-term mean.

3.2.2 Posho (Maize Meal)

- The average price of posho remained stable at Ksh 48.5 almost similar to Ksh 47.3 recorded last month.



- The highest price was recorded in the mixed farming livelihood zone at Ksh 52 while the lowest price was posted in the livestock farming livelihood zone at Ksh 45. Compared to the long-term average, the price of posho is 6.4% higher than normal.

3.3 Access to Food and Water

3.3.1 Availability of milk for household consumption

- The average milk consumption at household level is 60 750-ml bottles which is an 18.8% decrease compared to 50.5 bottles posted in February. Compared to the long-term mean consumption of 40 750-ml bottles, the consumption of milk is higher than seasonal norms by approximately 50%.

3.3.2 Availability of water for household consumption

Household access and Utilization

- The current average distance to the main water sources for households is 2.4 km up from 2.15 km posted last month indicative of an 11.6% increase. Most water sources have dried up hence the increased distance. The mixed farming zone recorded the shortest distance at 2.2 km while the livestock farming livelihood zone recorded the highest distance at 2.6 km.

Livestock access

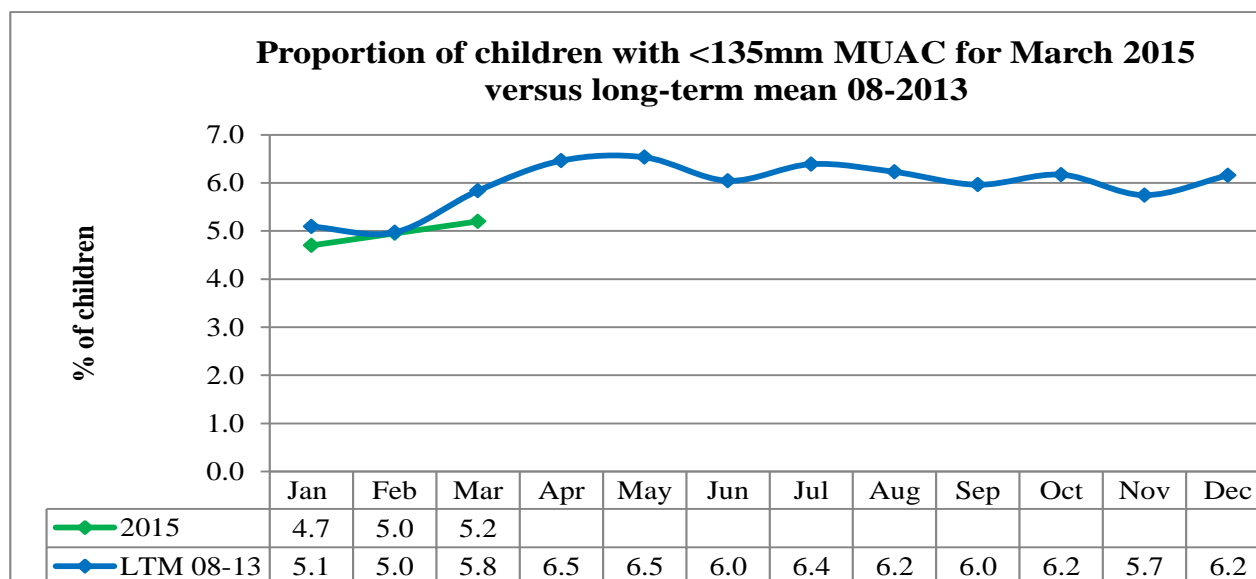
- The current average distance from grazing areas to the main water sources is 3.85 km up by 13.2% from 3.4 km recorded last month. The increase in distance was owed to the dry spell that has caused water sources, pasture and browse to dry up. The recorded distance is however less than the expected seasonal norm of 5.11 km by 24.7%. At the livelihood zone level, there were minimal disparities as the livestock farming zone recorded 4.0 km while the mixed farming one recorded 3.7 km.

D UTILISATION INDICATORS

4.1 Health and Nutrition Status

4.1.1 MUAC

- The proportion of children sampled for MUAC by gender was 942 boys and 883 girls.



Malnutrition

- The proportion of children at risk of malnutrition remained stable at 5.2% compared to 5.0% posted last month and also 10% lower than the long-term mean for this time of the year.
- The mixed farming livelihood zone posted the least proportion of children at risk of malnutrition at 4.5% while the livestock farming zone recorded the highest proportion at 5.9%.

Health

- Malaria, upper respiratory tract infections, diseases of the skin and diarrhoea were the main diseases reported in the sampled children. However, there has been no major disease outbreak.
- Areas that have reported high malnutrition rates and should be kept on the watch include Chengoni (15.7%), Mwereni (14.6%) and Dumbule (10.3%).

4.2 Coping Strategy

4.2.1 Coping Strategy Index

- The coping strategy index for the month of March is 1.85 compared to last month's 1.6 which implies that households were employing slightly more severe coping strategies than the previous months. The mixed farming zone recorded an index of 2.0 while the livestock farming zone recorded 1.7.
- The most commonly employed coping strategies include credit purchases, reduced number of meals and rations, engaging in casual labour, reliance on the CFA program and skipping of meals.

E Current Intervention Measures (Action)

5.1 Non-food interventions

- Cash For Assets program is on-going in Kinango sub-county in the month of March.
- Promotion of drought tolerant crops by the department of Agriculture.

5.2 Food Aid

- Matuga sub-county received and distributed relief food as follows: 820 bags of rice, 150 bags of beans and 25 cartons of vegetable oil.

F Emerging Issues

6.1 Food Security Prognosis

- Although the current dry spell has reduced water availability and access at household level, the onset of the rains is set to reverse the negative trend. This is particularly so since the rains expected to be either normal or below normal. Crops are therefore likely to have sufficient water if the amounts are normal. Livestock production is also likely to improve with the advent of the rains. Therefore there is a likelihood that the county will slip back in to the normal drought status.

G Recommendation

- Provision of water treatment chemicals for open water sources in Kinango sub-county.
- Timely disbursement of relief seeds
- Disease surveillance for New Castle Disease and suspected cases of CBPP, Foot and Mouth and CCPP in the livestock farming livelihood zone.
- Enhanced nutritional surveillance for areas with high malnutrition rates in Chengoni and Dumbule in Kinango sub-county and Mwereni in Lunga Lunga sub-county.